

MINUTES
Of The
EIGHTY-THIRD
ANNUAL SESSION
Of The
FLINT RIVER FREEWILL
BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

Convened With
PLEASANT HILL CHURCH
BLOUNT COUNTY, ALABAMA

September 17, 18, 19, 1964

Officers

Rev. Dennis Reeves, Moderator..... Rt. 2, Vinemont, Ala.
O. L. Long, Clerk..... Rt. 1, Falkville, Ala.

The next session of this association will convene with Friendship, about 25 miles west of Cullman in Winston County, Alabama, near Addison, Alabama, on Friday before the third Sunday in September of 1965.

MINUTES

The Eighty-Third Annual Session of the Flint River Freewill Baptist Association convened with Pleasant Hill Church, Blount County, Ala., on Friday before the third Sunday in September of 1964 at 11:00 o'clock after a song by the congregation and prayer by Rev. Archie Lee Harris. The introductory sermon was preached by Rev. James Waldrep. Text 12th chapter Book of Romans, beginning with the 1st verse. Benediction by Rev. R. F. Rich.

Friday Afternoon

At 1:00 o'clock after a song by the congregation and prayer by Rev. Horval Smith. The house was called to order by the moderator Rev. Dennis Reeves.

First: Ministers, Deacons and Clerks seated.

Second: Florence Hale appointed reading clerk.

Third: Visiting brethren invited to seats with us.

Fourth: Letters called for from the various churches and intelligence was received from eight churches. Letters were read and delegates seated.

Fifth: Petitionary letters called for. Two received.

Sixth: The Moderator appointed the following committees:

Order of Business: Holice Hall, Dewey Holmes and Lilly Pruitt.

On Character of Ministers: L. L. Lindsey, Robert Drinkard, and H. L. Davenport.

On Temperance: Rev. Horval Smith, Rev. Wayne Nails, and Rev. James Waldrep.

On Resolution: Harry Bradshaw, John Smith and Clovis Starns.

On Finance: Hermon Hagood, Jim Maddux and J. W. Brown.

On Obituary: Kenneth Yates, Selma Barnett and O'Neal Chambers.

On Devotion: Gilbert Boens, Tom Triptau and George Mabry.

The moderator declared the association fully organized of his trust notifying the association that the office of moderator and clerk were vacant. The association proceeded to elect a moderator and clerk. Whereupon Rev. Dennis Reeves was elected moderator and F. L. Thomas was elected assistant moderator. Oscar Long was elected Clerk, George Mabry elected assistant clerk. After appropriate remarks by both the association adjourned until 9:00 o'clock Saturday morning. Benediction by Rev. F. L. Thomas.

Second Day

On Saturday morning at 9:00 o'clock the association reassembled after a song by the congregation and prayer by Jim Maddux. The association was called to order by the moderator.

First: Roll called. Ministers, deacons, clerks and delegates seated.

Second: Visiting brethren invited to seat with us.

Third: Called for report of committee on order of business. We, your committee on order of business beg leave to report as follows: That we take up the regular form of our old minutes with any other new business that may come before the body.

Respectfully submitted,
Holic Hall, Chairman

Report adopted. Committee discharged.

Fourth: We, your committee on character of ministers beg leave to report as follows: We find our ministers in good standing. We advise the

association to drop Rev. James Abbott from our minutes. We also appoint for Presbytery Rev. F. L. Thomas, Rev. James Waldrep, Rev. Charles Lindsey.

Respectfully submitted,
L. L. Lindsey, Chairman

Report adopted. Retain committee.

Fifth: Constitution and Rules of Decorum were read and the union perpetuated.

Sixth: Resolved that our ministers shall not baptize people who do not believe in an organized church.

Seventh: Resolved that we have a standing committee for the purpose of investigating the character of our ministers and they shall have the power to appoint a presbytery for the purpose of ordaining ministers in our association.

Eighth: Resolved that our ministers go preach the Gospel and organize churches and call for aid as they see fit.

Ninth: Resolved that we do not allow ministers to preach in our churches doctrine that opposes the constitution and articles of faith.

Tenth: Resolved that we advise the various churches in our association to remember and compensate their pastor.

Eleventh: Resolved that we do not allow ministers to preach in our churches that do not believe in organized church.

The association adjourned at 11:00 o'clock for preaching.

Benediction by Rev. Wayne Nails.

Saturday Afternoon

At 1:00 o'clock the association met pursuant to adjournment after a song by the congregation and prayer by Rev. Julian L. Parsons. The association was called to order by the moderator. Business transaction was as follows:

First: Roll called and delegates seated.

Second: Visiting brethren invited to seat with us.

Third: Called for report of committee on temperance.

We, your committee on temperance beg leave to report as follows: 1. Corinthians, "and every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things." We recommend that we commit ourselves to temperance in bodily appetite. 2. By modest dress. 3. By normal consumption of food. 4. By total abstinence from all alcoholic beverages. 5. By using habit forming drugs only when necessary. 6. By practicing proper health habits.

Respectfully submitted,
Rev. Horval Smith, Chairman

Report adopted. Committee discharged.

Fourth: Resolved that a church in the Flint River Association shall not receive members from a sister church without a letter of recommendation.

Fifth: Resolved that the presbytery of the Flint River Association shall not be allowed to ordain or license ministers who cannot set forth the doctrine of the Freewill Baptists.

Sixth: Resolved that an applicant for ordination must preach before the presbytery before his ordination can be performed.

Seventh: Resolved that ministers of the Flint River Association shall not be allowed to organize churches where they can not be permanently established.

Eighth: Resolved that the deacons where a minister has his membership be required to assist the standing committee to investigate any rumor that may come against him.

Ninth: Resolved that a church shall not call for a pastor, a minister who has not been ordained or eligible for ordination.

Tenth: Call for report of committee on finance.

We, your finance committee have collected \$121.20 and found in treasury \$27.67, making a total of \$148.87 in treasury.

Respectfully submitted,
Herman Hagood, Chairman

Report adopted. Committee discharged.

Eleventh: Call for report of committee on obituary.

We, your committee find that eight members have passed away since last association. They are as follows: From Macedonia, Emit Hines; From Cedar Creek, Rev. John T. Quick; From Laodecia, Grady Alexander; From Ebenezer, Nettie Brown, Bro. Walt Brown; From Pleasant Hill, Charley Starns; From Unity, Rev. Joe Holmes.

We recommend the following to speak in their memory: For Emit Hines, Rev. Wayne Nails; For E. H. Minor, Rev. F. L. Thomas; For John T. Quick, Rev. Archie Lee Harris; For Grady Alexander, Rev. James Waldrep; For Nettie Brown and Bro. Walt Brown, Rev. Charlie Lindsey; For Charley Starns, Rev. F. L. Thomas; For Rev. Joe Holmes, Rev. Dennis Reeves.

Respectfully submitted,
Selma Barnett, Chairman

Report adopted. Committee discharged.

Twelfth: Resolved that we allow the clerk of the association \$35.00.

Thirteenth: Resolved that the deacons and clerks of each church have a voice in the association as the delegates and ministers.

Fourteenth: Resolved that the committee on character of ministers shall be ordained deacons.

Fifteenth: Resolved that the moderator shall not appoint anyone on a committee who is not present at that time.

Sixteenth: Resolved that we give our ministers a card certifying their standing after the character of ministers committee finds them in good standing and that the moderator and clerk sign them.

Seventeenth: Call for report on resolution committee.

We beg leave to report as follows:

Resolution 1.: Resolved that our churches do not receive members from any other church who have been excluded for some disorderly conduct until make acknowledgement to the church they were excluded from.

Resolution 2.: Resolved that the Flint River Association of the Freewill Baptist be represented by letter and delegates in the Alabama State Association of the Freewill Baptist.

Resolution 3.: We recommend the moderator and assistant moderator, clerk and assistant clerk of this association be appointed in the latter part of the Saturday Afternoon Session of the association and retain and serve their office through the Saturday Afternoon of the following year at which time a new election will be held to serve from then through the next following year in the same order.

Resolution 4.: We recommend that all ministers make an annual report of the work done by them and submit to the association at its regular session.

Resolution 5.: We recommend that all ministers of this association shall attend all business meetings unless providentially hindered.

Resolution 6.: We recommend that all ministers shall be required to support and stand by all boards and committee appointed by the association and do their utmost to make them a success.

Resolution 7.: We recommend that all ministers wishing to become members of the Flint River Association must be recommended from the church from which they are members and will be called upon to present their credentials for examination and answer satisfactorily such questions as may be asked them by the presbytery.

Resolution 8.: We recommend that a committee be appointed at this session to work on to improve and revise the present Constitution, Rules of Order and Rules of Decorum and report to this association any changes or additions to, at the next seating of this association.

Resolution 9.: We recommend that all churches of the Flint River Association meet quarterly and set in order any business and recommendations to be made at the setting of the association. These meetings to begin on Saturday morning at 9:00 o'clock and continuing through Saturday evening. These meetings should be prior to or in conjunction with the fifth Sunday meetings.

Resolution 10.: We recommend that a finance committee be made up consisting of: associational treasurer, clerk and corresponding secretary. These will handle all finances for the association and will distribute to others phases of the work, according to the wishes of the body.

Secretary and Treasurer, Oscar Long; Corresponding Secretary, Rev. Jimmy Brown; Committee, Rev. Wayne Hicks.

Resolution 11.: We recommend that our churches contribute through the association, a tithe of their income for all the other phases of our work, such as missions, Bible college superannuation. This should be done quarterly.

Resolution 12.: We recommend that if at all possible our moderator and assistant moderator and clerks attend the state association meeting in November of each year.

Resolution 13.: We recommend that henceforth all of our churches be known as Freewill Baptist only.

Resolution 14.: We recommend that at least one delegate from each church present serve on at least one committee.

Resolution 15.: We recommend that we take up a free will offering at the setting of our association and at our fifth Sunday services for our association.

Resolved that the Flint River Association of the Freewill Baptist be represented by letter and delegates in the Alabama State Association of the Freewill Baptist Delegates to the State Association are as follows: Lilly Pruitt, Evie Pike, Selma Barnett, Joyce Holmes, Ruby Mills, Alma Bradshaw, Harry Bradshaw, Edna Hagood, Herman Hagood, Mary Ritch.

We send as minutes fund, \$20.00.

Harry Bradshaw, Chairman

Report adopted. Committee discharged.

Seventeenth: Resolved that the next session of this association be held with Friendship Church, about 20 miles west of Cullman, near Addison in Winston County, Ala., on Friday before the third Sunday in Sept., 1965 and that Rev. Jimmy Brown preach the introductory sermon. Alternate Rev. F. L. Thomas.

Eighteenth: Resolved that we extend our thanks to Pleasant Hill Church and surrounding community for their hospitality shown us. May God's richest blessings be theirs.

Rev. Dennis Reeves, Moderator
O. L. Long, Clerk

Benediction by Rev. R. P. Ritch.

FRIDAY NIGHT

Devotion..... J. W. Brown
Sermon..... Rev. Archie Lee Harris

SATURDAY MORNING

Sermon..... Rev. Jimmy Wayne Brown

SATURDAY NIGHT

Devotion..... Sam Hunter
Sermon..... Rev. Wayne Hicks

SUNDAY MORNING

Devotion..... Kenneth Morgan
Sermon..... Rev. Dennis Reeves

Respectfully submitted,
George Mabry, Chairman

Ordained Deacons

EBENEZER — L. C. Brown, D. B. Holmes, Jessie Miller, J. W. Brown, Robert Drinkard. Inactive deacons are: C. C. Brown, and W. M. Bell.

UNION HILL — L. E. Reeves, L. L. Lindsey, J. H. Maddux, H. A. Reeves, Holice Hall, Royce Bennett.

CEDAR CREEK — Albert L. Henry, Willie B. Foot, Thomas (Bud) Hill, Paul M. Jones, Luther F. Holmes.

UNITY — Roy Hale.

MACEDONIA — H. L. Davenport, V. J. Eady, R. F. Speegle, Edward McGraw; Try deacon, Kenneth Milligan.

LAODICIA — Lee Headrick.

PLEASANT HILL — Clovis Starns.

FRIENDSHIP — Max Morgan, John Smith; Try deacons O'Neal Chambers, Junior Watts.

MAPLE GROVE — V. G. Lowery, Walter Lowery.

ROCKET CITY — Try deacon Harry Bradshaw.

Ordained Ministers

Rev. Dennis Reeves	Rt. 2, Vinemont, Ala.
Rev. F. L. Thomas	Rt. 1, Cullman, Ala.
Rev. Roy Patterson	Rt. 1, Falkville, Ala.
Rev. Horval Smith	Rt. 2, Vinemont, Ala.
Rev. Charles Lindsey	Rt. 1, Falkville, Ala.
Rev. James Waldrep	Rt. 3, Falkville, Ala.
Rev. Jimmy Brown	Rt. 3, Hartselle, Ala.
Rev. C. A. Martin	Cullman, Ala.
Rev. Wayne Nails	Rt. 2, Vinemont, Ala.
Rev. Aaron Hall	Rt. 3, Falkville, Ala.
Rev. Billy Bowers	Rt. 3, Hartselle, Ala.
Rev. R. P. Ritch	Madison, Ala.
Rev. Julian L. Parsons	Madison, Ala.
Rev. Wayne Hicks	Huntsville, Ala.

Licensed Ministers

Jimmy Wayne Brown

Delegates

EBENEZER — Leanie Green, Debra Hale, Frances Drinkard.
UNION HILL — Dee Maddux, Sam Hunter, Dewey Smith.
CEDAR CREEK — Lilly Pruitt, Cozey Holmes, Katherine Foot.
UNITY — Evie Pike, Kenneth Yates, Avery Eargle, A. H. Jones.
MACEDONIA — Albert Marion, Selma Barnett, Tom Triptau.
FRIENDSHIP — Orval Chambers, Pauline Gilland, Thelma Chambers.
LAODICIA — Florine Waldrep, Jerry Day, Gilbert Boens.
PLEASANT HILL — Rufus Putman, Dora Ratliff, Louie Ratliff.
MAPLE GROVE — Herman Hagood, Edna Earl Hagood, Mrs. R. P. Ritch.
ROCKET CITY — Louise Hicks, Ruby Mills, Harry Bradshaw.

Called for Conference

1. Called for acknowledgements.
2. Called for peace and fellowship.
3. Invitation to visiting brethren.
4. Invitation for membership.
5. Called for correspondence.
6. Reading of last minutes.
7. Is pastor faithful in his duties.
8. Are officers faithful in their duties.
9. General business.

Clerk's Report

Amount in treasury.....	\$148.87
State Association Funds.....	20.00
Paid Clerk	35.00
Printing of Minutes	63.50
Balance	30.37

Church Covenant

Having given ourselves to God, by faith in Christ, and adopted the Word of God as our rule of faith and practice, we now give ourselves to one another by the will of God in this solemn covenant.

We promise, by His grace, to love and obey Him in all things, to avoid all appearance of evil, to abstain from all sinful amusements and unholy conformity to the world, from all sanction of the use and sale of intoxicating beverages, and to "provide things honest in the sight of all men."

We agree faithfully to discharge our obligations in reference to the study of the Scriptures, secret prayer, family devotions, and social worship; and by self-denial, faith, and good works endeavor to "grow in grace and the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ."

We will not forsake the assembling of ourselves together for church conferences, public worship, and the observance of the ordinances of the Gospel; nor fail to pay according to our ability for the support of the church, of its poor, and all its benevolent work.

We agree to accept Christian admonition and reproof with meekness, and to watch over one another in love, endeavoring to "keep the unity of

the Spirit" in the bonds of peace. To be careful of one another's happiness and reputation, and seek to strengthen the weak, encourage the afflicted, admonish the erring, and as far as we are able, promote the success of the church and of the Gospel.

We will everywhere hold Christian principle sacred and Christian obligations and enterprises supreme; counting it our chief business in life to extend the influence of Christ in society, constantly praying and toiling that the Kingdom of God may come, and His will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

To this end we agree to labor for the promotion of educational and denominational enterprises, the support of missions, the success of Sunday school, and evangelistic efforts for the salvation of the world. And may the God of peace sanctify us wholly, and preserve us blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Rules Of Decorum

1. After an introductory sermon is preached the Association shall be called together by the Moderator who presided at the last session, former clerk also officiating until organized.

2. The Association shall be opened and closed by singing and prayer.

3. The Association, which assembled, shall be composed of all the ministers and delegates chosen by different churches comprising the body.

4. The officers of the Association shall consist of a moderator and clerk to be chosen from the members present in any way the members see fit.

5. It shall be the duty of the moderator to preside over the body during the session at which he is elected, to call the next session to order and preside until re-organization is effected by the election and installation of his successor. It shall be his duty to keep order, enforce the rules of decorum, decide all questions on discipline and in case of a tie, cast the deciding vote. He may speak on any subject but must call on some brother to preside while he is speaking.

6. It shall be the duty of the clerk to keep a minute of the proceedings and read the same when called upon by the body and shall prepare the minutes for publication unless the Association shall appoint someone else for that purpose.

7. Each church is entitled to three delegates.

8. A majority of the members shall rule in all cases, except the admission of churches; then the vote must be unanimous.

9. No member shall absent himself from the house without leave from the Moderator; and no member shall take final leave of the Association without consent of the body.

10. All business shall be brought before the body by motion and seconded and be disposed of by good usage.

11. No person shall be allowed to speak more than twice on the same subject nor more than ten minutes each time without leave from the moderator.

12. No brother shall be interrupted while speaking unless he departs from the subject under discussion or uses words of personal reflection.

13. Only one person shall be allowed to speak at a time, and he must rise and address the moderator. In case two arise at the same time, the first seen by the moderator shall be allowed to speak.

14. This decorum may be altered, amended or abridged at any session of the Association by a majority of the members present.

15. Be it known that we, the Freewill Baptist being in the State of Alabama, do believe in the doctrine of general atonement; we have been baptized upon a profession of faith in Christ and we are desirous of bringing about a reciprocal union; we propose therefore to maintain order and rules of our association according to the following plan:

We believe the churches are mutually independent of each other, that congregational form of church government should be invariably preserved. Yet we being convinced of unity of friendly intercourse and pious council of principles of union advantage and Christian love hold it a duty to the church to pay respect to these principles with regard to the duty of the Association.

Constitution And Articles Of Faith

Article 1. The Association shall be composed of members chosen by the different churches in our union, who on producing letters from the respective churches certifying their appointment, shall be entitled to seats.

Article 2. The letters so produced shall express the condition of these churches respectively, that is the number of members received, excluded or died since last Association.

Article 3. This body shall have no conceived power to lord it over God's heritage or infringe on any of the internal privileges or rights of the Church in our union. But shall only be considered an advisory council in all things pertaining to the internal concerns of the churches.

Article 4. The Association is to give the best advice in all matters of difficulty. If the union is broken between any of the churches, the Association shall inquire into the cause of the breach and use its best endeavors to remove the difficulty. But if the breach cannot be healed, to withdraw from the churches it may look upon as unsound in principle or disorderly in conduct or practice until they be reclaimed.

Article 5. To take up no case of any kind in the union without consent of a majority of the churches, and then only to give advice.

Article 6. All newly appointed churches may be received into the union by their representatives presenting a letter from their respective churches. If found orderly and orthodox such receptions be manifested by giving the right hand.

Article 7. We believe that it is pointedly against the law of Christ to make a church a legislative body. We, therefore, refuse to correspond with others in their respective bodies.

Article 8. For as much as the communion of the body and blood of Christ has become a matter of difficulty in many of the churches, we believe it to be free to all who can maintain a right by authority of the Word of God.

Article 9. We believe in the general resurrection of the dead and a universal judgment, and the joys of righteous and the punishment of the wicked shall be eternal.

Article 10. We believe that none but ordained ministers have the right to administer baptism and immersion is the apostolic mode.

Article 11. We believe that none but believers in Christ are fit subjects for baptism.

Article 12. We believe it is the duty of disciples of Christ to wash each others feet.

ROCKET CITY	MAPLE GROVE	PLEASANT HILL	LAODECIA	FRIENDSHIP	MACEDONIA	UNITY	CEDAR CREEK	UNION HILL	EBENEZER	NAME OF CHURCH
21	39	42	35	28	87	127	108	151	121	No. of Active Members
							46		42	No. of Inactive Members
										Rec'd by Experience (First Decision)
										Received by Letter
										Rec'd by Confession or Statement
										Dismissed by Letter
										Deceased
										Amount of Cont. to Assn.
										Number of Deacons
										No. of Ordained Ministers
										No. of Licensed Ministers
										No. of Sunday S. Classes
4							9	5		No. on Roll in Sunday S.
21							90	78		No. on Roll in League
										No. of Leagues in the League
							18			No. on Roll in Woman's Auxiliary
							15			No. on Roll, Young People's Auxiliary
							16			No. on Roll In Go Tell Aux.
13.02	25.00						120.00			Offering to Home Missions
19.06							245.37			Offering to Foreign Missions
							92.19			Offering to Christian Edu.
							17.24			Offering to Superannuation
	60.00						43.00	46.20		Offering to Children's Home, Eldridge
										Offering to Charity
820.00	2,710.00	429.26	280.32	28.00	414.23	3,120.00		552.69		Amount Paid Pastor
72.00	135.00	50.00	71.45		106.00	180.00		84.72		Amount Paid Evangelists
			40.75			40.00				Amt. Pd. Visiting Preachers
800.00						700.62				Offering to Other Causes
	12,500.00	5,000.00	5,500.00	1,000.00		14,000.00				Value of Church Property
						12,000.00				Value of Parsonage
			534.59			5,109.43				Total Amt. Received in Church
2,287.68			433.86			4,957.04				Total Amount Paid Out

Statistical Table For 1964

CHURCHES	COUNTY	PASTORS	CLERKS AND THEIR POSTOFFICES
Ebenezer	Morgan	Charles Lindsey	Robert Drinkard, Rt. 1, Eva
Union Hill	Morgan	Archie Lee Harris	Sam Hunter, Rt. 1, Hartselle
Cedar Creek	Morgan	Jimmy Brown	Robert Lee Brewer, Rt. 3, Hartselle
Unity	Cullman	Dennis Reeves	George Mabry, Rt. 3, Falkville
Macedonia	Cullman	Wayne Nails	Mary Eady, Rt. 1, Cullman
Friendship	Winston	Aaron Hall	Ruby Racer, Rt. 1, Addison
Laodecia	Cullman	James Waldrep	Annie Shugart, Hanceville
Pleasant Hill	Blount	F. L. Thomas	Bennie Moore, 2228 1st Place S., B'ham.
Maple Grove	Madison	R. P. Ritch	Edna Earl Hagood Rt. 1, Madison
Rockett City	Madison	Wayne Hicks	Mrs. Harry Bradshaw, Huntsville